

Applicant: Hide Hattori  
Serial No.: 10/783,338  
Filing Date: February 20, 2004  
Docket No.: ZIL-564

**AmendmentstotheClaims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (original) A method comprising:
  - (a) receiving a periodic signal, the periodic signal having periodic signal cycles with corresponding time durations, wherein the time durations of the periodic signal cycles are substantially identical;
  - (b) generating a control signal having a magnitude, the magnitude of the control signal varying smoothly over a plurality of the periodic signal cycles; and
  - (c) delaying the periodic signal and thereby generating an output signal, wherein the output signal has output signal cycles with corresponding time durations, and wherein each of the time durations of the output signal cycles is a function of the magnitude of the control signal during the time duration.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the delaying in (c) is performed by a variable delay element.
3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the magnitude of the control signal is ~~current~~ <sup>a current magnitude</sup>.
4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the periodic signal is received from an external oscillator.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the output signal is a spread spectrum clock signal.

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23. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the means does not include a ~~voltage-controlled oscillator~~ *phase locked loop*.

24. (original) The device of claim 21, wherein the output signal is a spread spectrum clock signal.

25. (original) A device comprising:

a variable delay element that receives a periodic signal and a control signal and outputs an output signal, wherein the periodic signal has a periodic signal cycle with a corresponding time duration, wherein the control signal has a control signal cycle with a corresponding time duration, a corresponding slope and a corresponding DC offset, wherein the output signal has an output signal cycle with a corresponding time duration, and wherein the time duration of the output signal cycle is a function of the time duration, the slope and the DC offset of the control signal during the time duration of the periodic signal cycle; and

a programmable spread spectrum control register with a first plurality of bits, a second plurality of bits and a third plurality of bits, wherein the first plurality of bits controls the DC offset of the control signal cycle, the second plurality of bits controls the slope of the control signal cycle, and the third plurality of bits controls the time duration of the control signal cycle.

26. (original) The device of claim 25, further comprising:

a counter portion that receives the periodic signal.

27. (original) The device of claim 25, wherein the control signal is generated by dividing the periodic signal.

28. (original) The device of claim 25, wherein the periodic signal cycle is one of a plurality of periodic signal cycles, wherein the control signal has a magnitude,